

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2026
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2007
WITHDRAWAL OF CUT IN PDS QUOTA
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the prices of sugar in Kerala have been rising due to the decision of the Union Government to stop supply of sugar for Above Poverty Line (APL) families through Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, whether the State Government has requested the Union Government to withdraw orders restricting supply of Sugar under PDS; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a),(b) & (c): The Central Government has, with effect from 01.02.2001, restricted supply of sugar in the Public Distribution System (PDS) to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in the country except in the North-Eastern States, hilly states and Island territories where universal coverage was allowed. Since then, the open market sugar prices in Kerala have been moving in tandem with the general trend of sugar prices in the country. The Government of Kerala, vide its memorandum dated 03.05.2007 to the Union Minister for Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution requested to allow sugar under PDS for Above Poverty Line(APL) families also. The State Government was informed vide letter dated 7th June, 2007 that the supply of sugar in the PDS has been restricted to BPL families for better targeting and to contain the subsidy burden. Therefore, it has not been possible for the Central Government to accede to the request.